GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2487
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
PROTECTION OF INTERESTS OF DISABLED
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher officers are also being involved by the Government to protect the interests of the disabled;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights& Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for a multi-sectoral collaborative approach towards empowerment of disabled persons, particularly, in relation to education of children, rehabilitation services, barrier-free access and economic empowerment. Implementation of the Act involves several departments of Government, both at Union and State level, as well as voluntary organizations.For the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the Act and redressal of grievances of the target group, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment hasappointed the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. The StateGovernments have also appointed State Commissioners for this purpose. The Cental Coordination Committee and the Central Executive Committee constitutedunder the Persons with Disabilities Act include senior officials who work towards implementation of the Act.

(b) & (c)The Ministry also follows up issues concerning the interests of persons withdisabilities with the Chief Secretaries and other senior functionaries of the State Government and Central Ministries. Elaborate instructions are issued from time totime calling upon all concerned to converge resources and take affirmative action towards this end.